

CENSORS WHET SHEARS OVER FOX'S "THE SPY"

Bar Torture Close-Ups, Safe-Cracking and Hero's Death Fall in Thriller

By the Photoplay Editor

The scene is photographed in many parts, with Dutton Farnum and Walter Kingdon. Story by George Brown Howard. Directed by J. D. Jensen. Private services.

Can Wealthy Idlers Die for Their Country?

A select circle of square-splinters gathered yesterday to view, the newest Fox feature; to observe its claim to merit, and the ruin wrought by the censors. There was talk of lawsuits to force those obdurate moralists to relent on some of their judgments, and the members of the censor-commissioned went over newspaper critics. While a few of the excoriators would seem foolish to say, a New Yorker, unused to Pennsylvania statutes, they show nothing but adherence to the old rules against displaying acts of safe-breaking and violent death. And in one instance the often-spoken words of authority do not allow a recess from the journalistic paddle. Its members have ordered out in their entirety close-ups depicting Mr. Farnum's torture by German officials in an effort to make him disclose what he has done with a spy-list stolen from the War Minister in Berlin. The censors have notwithstanding, in their view, of an honored, up-to-date, and brilliant film, and in the extremest don't advance the story notably, and form a gross breach of the ethics of beauty, one of photoplay's first laws. The censors also have banned views of the actor touring "Siberia" on a combination foot and the ignition of the explosive, in addition to Farnum's final scenes, which depict the torturing of prisoners to die in full view of the spectators. The finale of the film is its great asset, for there's no attempt to provide us a sorry finish (as in "Paws of the Bear" and "The Little American"). The preceding action is good melodrama of very familiar kind, in which a German girl has to leave her home, love for Death and Duty to the Fatherland. This is well done, cleverly suggested and the production and illumination are good throughout. But most of the acting is wooden and self-conscious. The theme is admirably suited to these red days, and the movie will make money for Mr. Fox, who should quit worrying about the censors as long as he's able to fill his coffers.

ACADIA—The Director—George Wharton, with Mary Anderson and Alfred Vachon, in "My Burdened Star." Name of director not screened.

Would You Blame the Wives of the Broadly Married?

In this case the play's distinctly the thing, the star being rather out of it. "The Divorcee" is an odd little comedy with the human flavor apparent and a satirical element in leaders and action that makes it acceptable to intelligent folk. Vitagraph has done well by the script writer, whose notion of having a person mistaken for a husband is ingeniously handled, and the photographed and set amid locations that suggest the implied Nevada. As an income Miss Anderson is a very good comedienne. Kittenish writings and too frequent smiles do not distress, but they bore one a bit. Her support might give this young person lessons in muscular control, and Dorothy Gish (whom she resembles) would never, never think that way. But the comic idea is there and won't be spoiled, even by Mary.

VITRAGH—The Girl Without a Soul—Metro, with Vicki Baum and Walter Miller. Story and direction by John G. Calhoun.

Can Two Sisters Have Utterly Dissimilar Spirits?

The programless editor saw through four reels of "The Girl Without a Soul" thinking that Miss Baum's real sister, Shirley Mason, was her other clinger sister. In real life he stumbled upon the remarkable little star was "shoulding" the extraordinarily delicate and subtle playing of two parts, in which the tie of blood is indicated without any confusion in the characters, would make the feature a delightful play, if it had no other merits. There are plenty of the latter. One can't see every day a melodrama in which the note of some pathos in life so unerringly struck, in which "business" can be so carefully, convincingly handled, and whose lighting is so adjusted to meet the emotional and pictorial needs of the separate scenes. There are some bully leaders, that rouse laughter without straining for comic effect, as when the girls misquote "The Village Blacksmith" at her commencement. Mr. Calhoun a reliable director, known when to stop and when to take his story at gradual tempo. Whether he's producing a fight between polished villain and humble hero, or just offering distinction in the form of a lamp-lit parlor or the figure of a girl thief silhouetted on a window pane or suggesting a country store, he is satisfactory.

William Farnum's next presentation, Fox picture will be a much-needed treatment of Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," directed by the able Frank Lloyd, producer of "A Tale of Two Cities." This best work to date and "American Methods." Farnum once offered a "Miserables" film, shown here in Witherspoon Hall, but foreign acting methods and excessive length militated against its success.

There's another Triangle deserter, none less than Bebe Love. Her future plans are uncertain.

Deaths

ANDERSON—Aug. 22, MARY J., wife of Charles A. Anderson, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, Sat., 3 p.m., at late residence, Hillside Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

BAILEY—Sudden death near Paul Smith, Allentown, Pa., on Aug. 22, 1917, of natural causes of failure later. New York papers copy.

BOWMAN—Aug. 22, GEORGE W., husband of Elizabeth Bowman, Mrs. David T. Bowman, 20 p.m., parents residence, 100 E. 10th St., New York City.

BREWER—Aug. 22, ELLEN T., wife of James Birmingham, member of the League of the Sacred Heart, our Lady of Lourdes, Sat., 2 p.m., Int. Glenwood Cem., Philadelphia, Pa., where she was buried. Religious services were held.

BUSSINGER—Aug. 22, MARY A., daughter of William T. and Flora J. Bussinger, aged 22, 20 p.m., parents residence, 100 E. 10th St., New York City.

CALLAHAN—Aug. 22, HARRY J., son of John and Anna Callahan, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 30 coats, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

CORCORAN—Aug. 22, FRANK, husband of Bridget Corcoran, relatives and friends, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

CRESSMAN—Aug. 22, ISAAC J., husband of Mrs. Annie Cressman, relatives and friends, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

CURTIS—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ADELINE, wife of John Curtis, died in her 22d year. Funeral services at St. Thomas' E. Church, Newark, Del., Sat., 2 p.m. Int. private.

DEPUTY—Aug. 22, JOHN W., husband of Mrs. Martha Deputy (Mrs. Clark), aged 57, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

DETROIT—John W., husband of Mrs. Martha Deputy (Mrs. Clark), aged 57, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

DUNN—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ALICE, wife of John Dunn, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

FARNSWORTH—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Farnsworth, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

GARRETT—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Garrett, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

HARRIS—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Harris, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

HORN—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Horn, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

JORDAN—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Jordan, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

KELLY—At Newark, Del., Aug. 22, ROBERT, son of Robert and Anna Kelly, relatives and friends invited to funeral services, 2 p.m., Int. Perfume Cem., Allentown, Int. private.

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